

Section 6.0 Private Water Supply	Page 1 of 1
Subsection 6.1 Policy Regarding Non-Community Drinking Water Wells	Revised May 2008

Introduction

Groundwater is a very important resource. Across the United States, there are over 142,000 public water systems that use groundwater as their primary source. In Missouri, roughly 91% of the public water systems use groundwater as their primary source of drinking water.

The majority of the public and private wells in Missouri are properly constructed; however, there are many older wells that do not meet Department of Natural Resources (DNR) standards. There are approximately 6,500 new wells drilled each year. DNR estimates that less than 70% of these wells are properly certified.

Protecting our groundwater from contamination is essential. In a 1994 CDC survey of private drinking water wells, it was determined that Missouri wells were at risk of contamination by bacteria and nitrates. Out of the 861 wells tested, 481 tested positive for total coliform bacteria and 189 tested positive for e-coli.

It is the purpose of this program to protect private water supplies to prevent water-borne diseases or illnesses by providing technical assistance to the public regarding water treatment, well construction guidelines and sampling.

This program addresses individual water supplies as well as water supplies that serve food and lodging establishments and other facilities under DHSS jurisdiction. Some of these water supplies may be classified as "non-community": Defined as a public water system that is not a community water system, which has at least fifteen (15) service connections or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five individuals daily at least sixty (60) days out of the year.

Authority:

Program authority is found in 19 CSR 20-3.040 Environmental Health Standards for the Control of Communicable Diseases, 19 CSR 20-3.050 Sanitation and Safety Standards for Lodging Establishments, and 196 RSMo using the federal Food and Drug Administration 1999 Food Code.

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